



Resolution Number:	W-20-04	Sponsored By:	Senator Alex Hicks
Introduced On:	20 February 2020		
Voted On:	27 February 2020		
Result:	Passed		
Vote Count:	Unanimous		

A RESOLUTION TO: Call for Grand Valley State University to Create a Task Force Charged with the Research of the Impact of Menstrual Hygiene Product Accessibility on Students No Later Than Fall 2020, to Report to the Division of Student Affairs No Later Than the End of Fall 2020.

Recognizing, that a lack of menstrual hygiene product goes directly against Grand Valley State University’s core value of inclusiveness which states that Grand Valley is committed to “recognizing and removing the barriers to full participation”¹; and

Recognizing, without increased accessibility to menstrual hygiene products, menstruating students are left at a significant disadvantage; and

Recognizing, menstruation is a non-optional health process in which approximately 61.3% of the Grand Valley State University student population² participates; and

Recognizing, menstrual hygiene products are estimated to cost \$160 annually³, which is costly when coupled with \$13,000 in tuition⁴; not including costs of housing, food, and more; and

Whereas, students must have their basic needs met before they “can explore new directions, find their niches, and develop skills for life and productive careers”⁵; and

Recognizing, that, while these products may be purchased on campus, walking to the closest POD store or walking back to their dorm can take away essential classroom time from a student; and

Recognizing, while there are dispensers available in many female restrooms, there is no guarantee that they will be operational, and they only accept quarters; and

¹ <https://www.gvsu.edu/policies/policy.htm?policyId=4A6B4946-964C-4E87-1E31AC7FCA7936BD>

² https://reports.ia.gvsu.edu/snap/snap_20201.html

³ <https://nypost.com/2019/12/03/should-feminine-hygiene-products-be-free/>

⁴ <https://www.gvsu.edu/financialaid/tuition-fees-68.htm>

⁵ <https://www.gvsu.edu/policies/policy.htm?policyId=4A3F19A0-E349-1B7A-0CEB03648AF094B7>

Recognizing, that Grand Valley State University is becoming more sustainable and many of the payment stations on campus are cashless, it is therefore more difficult for students to obtain coins on campus unless they already have them on hand; and

Whereas, this project has been recognized as a primary issue by students at Grand Valley State University⁶; and

Recognizing, that other institutions in Michigan have already begun this initiative and recognized it as a priority⁷, and that if Grand Valley was the first institution to successfully implement it, we would be seen as a model across the state;

Therefore, Let It Be Resolved, that the Grand Valley State University Student Senate, acting on behalf of the student body, calls for Grand Valley State University to create a taskforce charged with the research of the impact of menstrual hygiene product accessibility on students no later than Fall 2020, to report to the Division of Student Affairs no later than the end of Fall 2020.

Furthermore, Let It Be Resolved, that a copy of this resolution be sent to Tim Thimmesch of Facilities Services, Sharalle Arnold of the Center for Women and Gender Equity, Kelly Margot of the Faculty Facilities Planning Advisory Committee, Vice President Greg Sanial of Finance and Administration, Vice Provost for Student Affairs and Dean of Students Loren Rullman, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs Maria Cimitile, and President Philomena Mantella.

⁶ <https://lanthorn.com/72280/news/new-menstruation-initiative-provides-free-products-around-campus/>

⁷ <http://www.cm-life.com/article/2019/10/free-tampons-coming-four-bathrooms>